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ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE

P. O. BOX 1539

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Phil Lang 2-6 85

5 November 1945

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IN REPLY  
REFER TO  
EIDM IO

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL L. E. SEEMAN:

PUBLICLY RELEASED  
LANL Classification  
SR 1-15-99

Subject: Readjustment of Security Policy I

1. This office has been proceeding upon the assumption that some rather drastic changes will probably ultimately occur in the policies of admission of visitors and various representatives of commercial firms, including possibly concessionaires, to this site. It is believed that you are appreciative of the several reasons for this belief. It is the purpose of this memorandum to suggest to you that certain of our present restrictions will no longer be plainly defensible from the security standpoint at a time in the foreseeable future.

2. We have felt that continued restrictions upon admittance to the site have been necessitated here because of proximity of the main Technical Area to the residential districts -- a feature in strong contrast to the situation at Oak Ridge, for example, where considerable distances separate the town site from the various technical sites. It has been our endeavor to compensate for our lack of this decided advantage by improving considerably the physical security of technical installations in the vicinity of the residential districts.

3. By 1 January 1946, lighting of the Technical Area fence should be completed, and we believe that if arrangements can then be made for manning of the Technical Area guard towers, physical security at this site will be more effective than it has been at any previous time. From the security standpoint, therefore, we feel that considerable relaxation of policy on admission to the residential areas will then be in order. We believe machinery should then be set up for issuing passes for relatives and friends of residents of Los Alamos (without regard to their professions or standing) under various regulations which would, of course, be necessary. Admission of concessionaires, if otherwise desirable, would also seem logical at that time.

4. We believe that no further improvement would be necessitated by such relaxation of policy, in the security of DP site, which is now the best guarded technical area at this site. We do feel that at present any persons admitted to this site as a result of relaxation of the rules, should not be permitted beyond Post 12, unless it becomes possible to devise means of absolutely excluding them from proximity to any of the outlying sites -- and such an arrangement would involve much time and expense. Further, we feel that any such change of

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Subj: Readjustment of Security Policy

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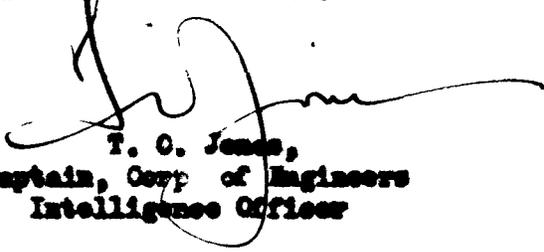
policy will require increased efforts in security education.

5. Factors other than security are, of course, involved in this matter, and should the time come when such other factors limit access to the site to a substantially greater extent than required by security, we believe that this fact should be generally known.

6. For your information, in a directive addressed to the District Engineer by Major General L. R. Groves on 29 August 1945, the following change in security regulations was authorized:

"Site restrictions at Y will be relaxed slightly with respect to visits by members of immediate families of essential residents, subject to prior approval of the Area Intelligence Officer. Present restrictions will remain in effect with respect to all other visitors."

Dr. Oppenheimer felt that this rule would cause great resentment if instituted, and because of the difficulty of satisfactorily defining the term "essential residents", no effort has been made to institute the rule, and Major Pierce has been advised of this fact.

  
T. O. Jones,  
Captain, Corp of Engineers  
Intelligence Officer

cc - Major Claude G. Pierce

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